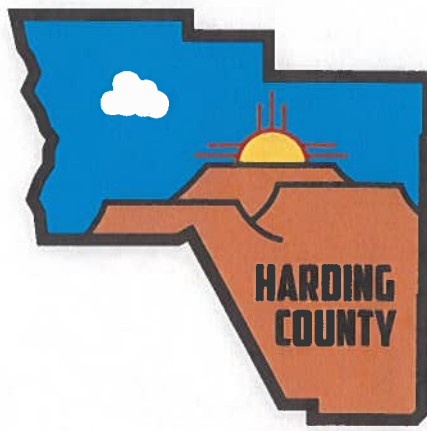




# HARDING COUNTY

## Inclement Weather Plan

### INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Harding County Road Department is to maintain, operate and preserve Harding County's rural road network as safely and efficiently as possible.

This includes the development of capabilities for responding to emergency situations in an effective, efficient, and timely manner. As part of this mission, the Harding County Road Department conducts inclement weather operations to mitigate hazardous driving conditions.

The Road Department's maintenance program is based on history and the expected average weather conditions for Harding County.

The purpose of this Inclement Weather Plan is to provide clear, consistent, and environmentally responsible guidelines and procedures to keep the county's transportation network functioning as safely and efficiently as possible for the public schools, fire, police, and other emergency vehicles. It is understood that this plan cannot eliminate all the impacts or effects of a Inclement Weather. Rather, the intent of this plan is to maximize the use of available resources to reduce the threat to public safety.

The Road Department is responsible for approximately 593 miles of roadway in unincorporated Harding County, the first to have road clearance will be Emergency arterial lifeline routes that provide connectivity from residential areas to the state highway system and key service centers. In addition, the Road Department is only responsible for opening county established roads.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Road Department Superintendent will be responsible for mobilization of equipment and personnel and that these are adjusted as is necessary to meet the needs presented by each unique snow event. The Road Department's full-time employees will be assigned to one of three districts depending on snowfall in each district.

The Harding County Road Department Facilities are located at:

17 Division Road

Mosquero, New Mexico 87733

Office 575-673-2313

Road Superintendent: 575-447-2003

## **Operational Safety**

The County is dedicated to safely maintaining the priority roadways during a inclement weather event. The operational intent is to create acceptable driving conditions for people who have vehicles that are properly equipped for driving and for people who operate their vehicles in a manner that is consistent with good driving habits. During a inclement weather event, every effort will be made to maintain the County's roadways in as safe a condition as possible under the circumstances. However, operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of County employees or the public. Many factors such as limited visibility, may affect control operations if they pose a safety hazard to Operators who are operating the equipment or to the public. Safety will be the deciding factor in the continuation of the operations. Operations will be delayed or suspended if existing or anticipated conditions indicated the operations will not be effective and pose a risk to the County's staff. If the Road Superintendent, County Manager or designee believes that there is a safety issue, they have the responsibility to stop the operations until a safer solution can be initiated.

## **Inclement Weather Priorities**

The equipment will be pre-positioned by the Road Department Superintendent with consideration to mobilization and logistics efficiency; and is adjusted as is necessary to meet the needs presented by each inclement weather event.

Harding County's Road network has been divided into 3 districts, each containing arterial and emergency lifeline routes. When inclement weather conditions affect roadways across the entire county, priority routes are monitored by the Road Superintendent and personnel on a regular basis. Some roadways may require plowing several times within a 10-hour operational period. Therefore, some routes on the priority lists may not be addressed until higher priority routes are clear, depending on the severity of the event.

### **Priorities**

Each of the 3 districts has a pre-established priority listing of roadways established by the following designations:

- A. Emergency lifeline routes
- B. School bus routes
- C. Mail delivery routes.
- D. All other side roads

### **Emergency Response Zones - Maps**

Each of the districts Emergency Road Response Priorities are mapped, all priority roadways within each are listed in a sequence that optimizes the county wide effectiveness and efficiency. To be optimally prepared for the wide range of probable inclement conditions that can occur in Harding County, Emergency Response Zone maps and priority roadway lists have been established by the Harding County Road Department.

**\*Harding County reserves the right to determine and/or regulate the number of access roads based on severity of event.**

### **Inclement Weather Operations - Four Phases of Response**

The Harding County Road Department will mobilize the road crew based upon the severity of a inclement weather event. There are four phases of response, procedures, resource allocation, and coordination efforts crafted to address major storm events as listed below:

#### **Phase 1**

A significant inclement weather is in the forecast. The following steps are implemented:

**\* The objectives of Phase 1 are preparation and prevention. Actual conditions will be addressed on a site-specific basis.**

1. The Road Superintendent will notify all Road Department employees.
2. Road Superintendent will pre-position all needed equipment.
3. Road Department employees will prepare equipment for snow removal operations.
4. The Superintendent may adjust initial response schedules as the weather event unfolds.
5. Crews are on 10-hour shifts during this phase unless the event occurs after hours at which time the Superintendent can dispatch personnel as conditions warrant. Personnel may be required to work more hours if the response phase is upgraded, or if conditions warrant.

## **Phase 2**

Inclement Weather has occurred. Sites where of inclement weather accumulation have affected County roads may be isolated too widespread. The following steps are implemented during this phase:

**\* The objectives of Phase 2 are to transition from preparedness into response.**

1. Superintendent alerts Road Department Employees.
2. Citizen and emergency services requests for action are noted and incorporated into the pre-established lifeline and arteria/ routes as applicable.
3. All personnel keep detailed records of the response activities performed during each shift.

## **Phase 3**

Inclement Weather has occurred and are widespread. The long-range forecast calls for inclement weather conditions to continue. The following steps are implemented during this phase:

**\* The objective of Phase 3 is to produce the best possible results with available resources.**

1. Road crew will be moved to problem areas as required.
2. The Road Department Superintendent is continuously updated and advised of inclement weather removal progress and/or problem areas.
3. Additional departments within Harding County may be requested to provide support to crews.

### Phase 3.5

Heavy accumulations of inclement weather may have affected all roadways. Weather conditions have stabilized, and arterial lifeline routes have plowed. The following steps are implemented during this phase:

\* The objectives of Phase 3.5 are to produce the best possible results with available resources including the reassignment of resources to non-priority roads after desirable conditions have been achieved on arterial/ lifeline routes.

1. Operational steps implemented to support Phase 3 are continued.
2. The Superintendent re-assigns resources as needed.
3. If weather conditions deteriorate and again significantly affect driving conditions the Superintendent will transition to phase 3 and resources will be reassigned to arterial lifeline.

### Phase 4

The long-range forecast calls for no additional inclement weather accumulations and warmer temperatures. The following steps are implemented during this phase:

\* The objectives of Phase 4 are to transition from Emergency Response Operations back to normal road maintenance. Shifts are adjusted as conditions and priorities dictate.

1. As priority lists are completed, the focus will turn to removal of any remaining snow accumulations on local access and residential roads.

\*One common misperception is that the County's control operators intentionally deposit elements into driveways and entrance gates. However, this is the result of normal plowing operations when plows are angled for plowing. For this reason, wind drifts will form, and a certain amount of elements will be deposited in front of driveways and/or entrance gates. Operators attempt to minimize these instances the best they can. However, it is not practical to fully eliminate this situation while being able to effectively address the inclement weather. Residents should be aware that they may have to re-clear their driveway and/or entrance gates after the roadway is plowed.

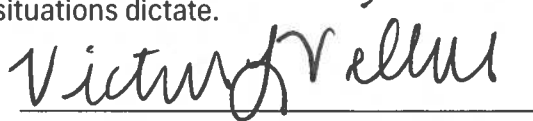
2. Crew schedules are adjusted back to normal 10-hour shifts.
3. Inclement Weather equipment is repaired, cleaned and prepped for future use.
4. Materials and supplies are inventoried and replenished as needed.

5. After action meetings are held to assess the effectiveness of response efforts and to identify improvement opportunities.

### Updates and Changes

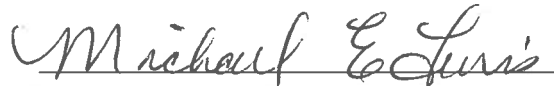
This Inclement Weather Plan and maps will be updated annually or as situations dictate.

The Road Superintendent has the authority and flexibility to deviate from this plan when Life Threatening, Fire, or other Emergency situations dictate.

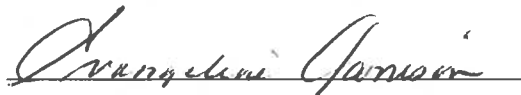


Victoria Villarreal County Manager,  
Emergency Response Manager

Approved and adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025 by County Commissioners



Michael E. Lewis, Chairman

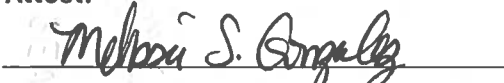


Evangeline Garrison, Vice Chairman



Pablo Trujillo, Member

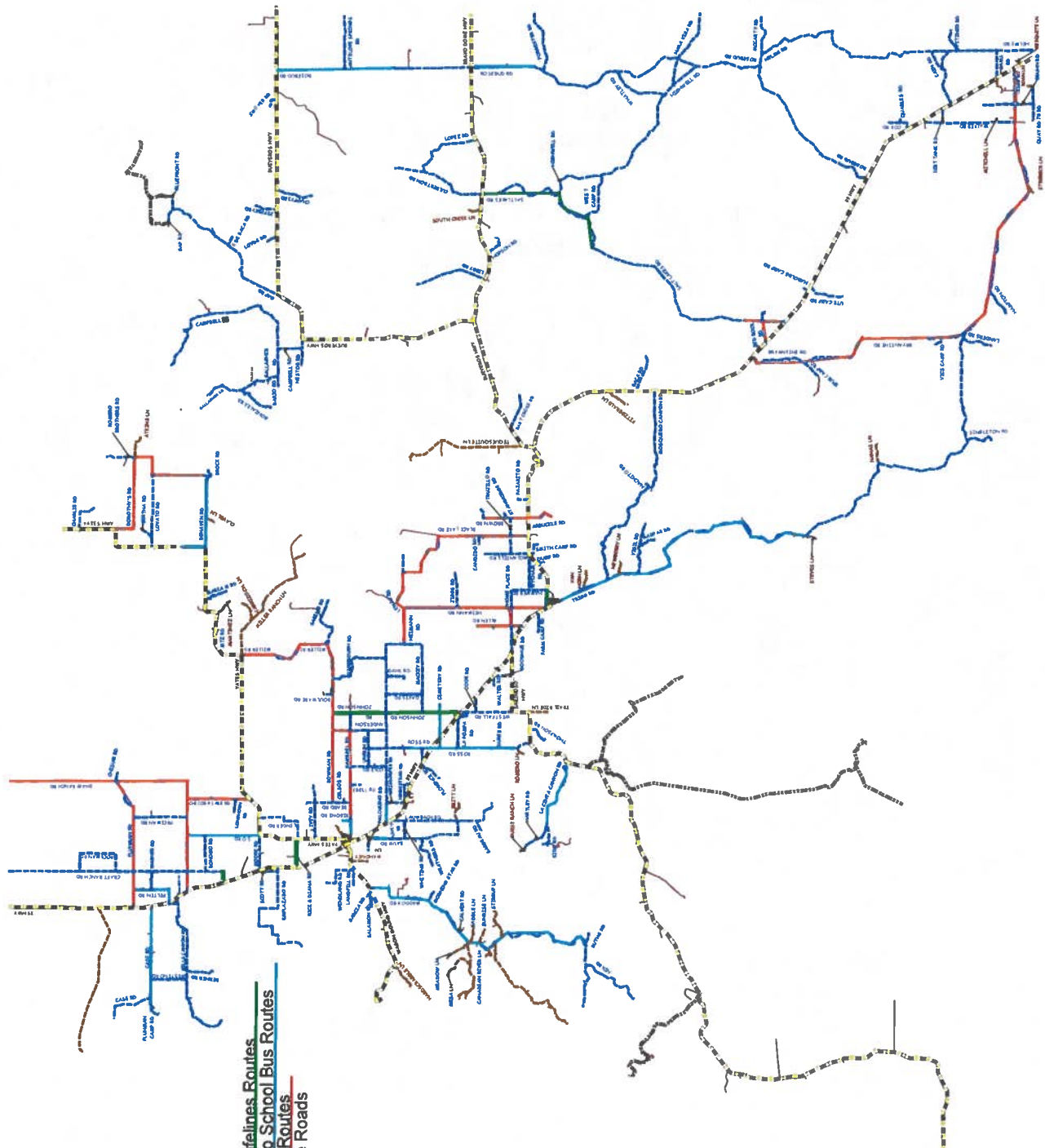
Attest:



Melissa S. Gonzalez, Harding County Clerk



Priority 1: Emergency Lifelines Routes  
Priority 2: Roy/Mosquero School Bus Routes  
Priority 3: Mail Delivery Routes  
Priority 4: All Other Side Roads



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